

alkali metal and alkaline earth metal salts, alkyl esters, amides, sorbitan esters, glycerol esters or polyglycerol esters,

(2) mono- or polyunsaturated aliphatic C₈-C₃₀-amines,
(3) mono- or polyunsaturated C₈-C₃₀-alcohols as well as their esters with saturated C₁-C₄-monocarboxylic acids,
(4) [C₈-C₃₀-alkyl] C₁₀-C₂₅-alkyl vinyl ethers [which may contain up to 25 alkylene oxide units incorporated], and
(5) terminal or internal C₁₆-C₃₀-alkenes,

B
C) 0 - 49.9% by weight of other copolymerizable monomers and
D) 0 - 10% by weight of one or more compounds with at least two olefinically unsaturated groups in the molecule as crosslinkers [,

are used as thickeners or dispersants].

11. (amended) A [process] composition as [claimed] defined in claim 10, wherein the copolymers [are used which] are [obtainable] obtained by free-radical polymerization of

A) 75 - 99.45% by weight of carboxylic acid component A,
B) 0.5 - 24.95% by weight of the long-chain compounds with isolated C-C multiple bonds B,
C) 0 - 24.45% by weight of other copolymerizable monomers and
D) 0.05 - 5% by weight of the crosslinker component D.

12. (amended) A [process] composition as [claimed] defined in claim 10, wherein the copolymers [are used which] have been prepared using acrylic acid, methacrylic acid or maleic anhydride as component A.

13. (amended) A [process] composition as [claimed] defined in claim 10, wherein the copolymers [are used which] have been prepared using as component B one or more long-chain compounds with isolated olefinic double bonds selected from the group [comprising]

consisting of

*B1
CM*

- (1) mono- to tetraunsaturated C_{14} - C_{24} -monocarboxylic acids as well as their alkali metal and alkaline earth metal salts, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl esters, glycerol esters or polyglycerol esters,
- (2) mono- to tetraunsaturated aliphatic primary C_{14} - C_{24} -amines,
- (3) mono- to tetraunsaturated primary C_{14} - C_{24} -alcohols as well as their esters with saturated C_1 - C_4 -monocarboxylic acids,
- (4) C_{10} - C_{25} -alkyl vinyl ethers [which may contain up to 10 alkylene oxide units incorporated], and
- (5) terminal C_{16} - C_{24} -alkenes.

Claim 14, line 1, delete "process" and substitute
-composition--; delete "claimed" and substitute --defined--.

Claim 15, line 1, delete "obtainable" and substitute --
obtained--; line 19, delete " C_8 - C_{30} -" and substitute -- C_{10} - C_{25} --;
lines 19 and 20, delete "which may contain up to 25 alkylene oxide
units incorporated".

Cancel claim 16.

REMARKS

Claims 10-14 have been amended. They now cover a composition containing a copolymer as defined in claim 15. Claim 16 has been canceled.

It is believed that the claims now fully satisfy the requirements of 35 USC § 101.

The examiner has rejected claim 10 under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Fock et al. It is urged that this rejection be favorably reconsidered.

Fock et al. disclose copolymers of three components, i.e.

- ◆ acrylic or methacrylic acid
- ◆ a non-ionized vinyl monomer